

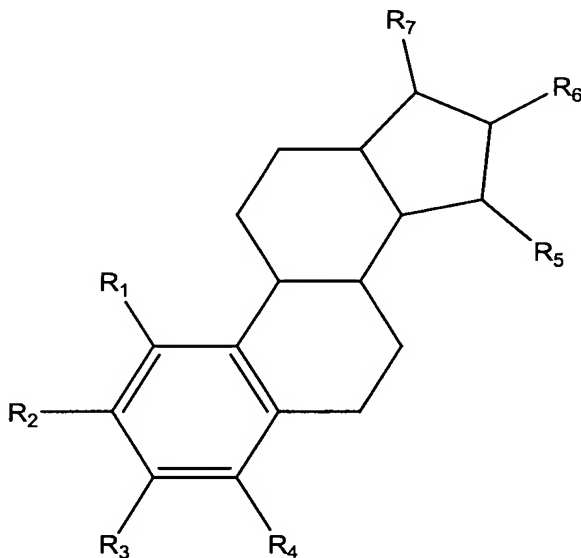
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (new): A method of treating or preventing an immune mediated disorder in a mammal, said immune mediated disorder being selected from the group consisting of autoimmune diseases; rheumatoid arthritis; osteoarthritis; insulin dependent diabetes (type I diabetes); systemic lupus erythematosus; psoriasis; immune pathologies induced by infectious agents, viral infections or bacterial infections; tuberculosis, lepromatous leprosy; transplant rejection; graft versus host disease; atopic conditions; eosinophilia; conjunctivitis and glomerular nephritis, and said method comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of;
substances represented by the following formula



in which formula R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms; each of R_5 , R_6 , R_7 is a hydroxyl group; no more than 3 of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 are hydrogen atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula when used in the present method, which precursors are derivatives of the estrogenic substances wherein the hydrogen atom of at least one of the hydroxyl groups has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic acid or sulfamic acid of 1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranal; or a straight or branched chain glycosidic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue; and mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors.

Claim 19 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein R_3 represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

Claim 20 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein at least 3 of the groups R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 represent hydrogen atoms.

Claim 21 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein the estrogenic component exhibits an 8β , 9α , 13β , 14α configuration of the steroid-skeleton.

Claim 22 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein the method comprises the uninterrupted administration of the estrogenic component during a period of at least 5 days.

Claim 23 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein the method comprises oral or subcutaneous administration of the estrogenic component.

Claim 24 (new): The method according to claim 23, wherein the method comprises oral administration.

Claim 25 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein the estrogenic component is administered in an amount of at least 1 μg per kg of bodyweight per day.

Claim 26 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein the immune mediated disorder is a T-lymphocyte mediated disorder and/or a chronic inflammatory disease.

Claim 27 (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the immune mediated disorder is a Th1 mediated disorder.

Claim 28 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein the immune mediated disorder is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, insulin dependent diabetes (type I diabetes), systemic lupus erythematosus and psoriasis.

Claim 29 (new): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the estrogenic component as defined in claim 18, an immunotherapeutic agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 30 (new): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 29, wherein the formulation comprises at least 10 μg of the estrogenic component.

Claim 31 (new): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 29, wherein the formulation comprises at least 1 μg of the immunotherapeutic agent.

Claim 32 (new): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 29, wherein the immunotherapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents; D-pencillamine; 4-aminoquinoline agents; azathioprine; methotrexate; cyclosporin; monoclonal antibodies to T lymphocytes, adhesion molecules or to cytokines and growth factors; Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor (TNFR)-IgG; IL-1 receptor antagonists; ICE inhibitors; betaferon; vitamin D; 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ and 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₂; agents that specifically bind a molecule selected from the group

consisting of a T cell receptor, an antigen and a HLA molecule; organic gold derivatives such as a gold sodium thiomalate, aurothioglucose, or auranofin and an angiogenesis inhibitor.

Claim 33 (new): An oral unit dosage form comprising a pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 29.